

In British Columbia, we have water all around us, in lakes, rivers, and the ocean. With so much water available, we often think we could never run out, and we rarely pay attention to how much water we use in our daily lives. In many parts of Africa, water (especially clean water) is very scarce. On average, in some African countries, a person uses about 5 L of water a day. Compare that with average daily use in British Columbia, which is about 350 L. That is equivalent to about seven filled bathtubs. Household use is just one example of how water is an essential part of our lives. The following activity will help you think about what other ways we use water in British Columbia.

### What to Do

1. Look at the figure below and create a mind map with "Water" as your starting term. Then make a list of all the different ways water is being used in the figure. Try to group the items on the list into different categories. For example, you might have categories such as "household use," "personal use," and "recreational activities."

### What Did You Find Out?

1. Share your category lists with the rest of the class. Were there any differences?
2. Pick one of your categories and imagine that the water uses listed under it were not available to you anymore. Write a brief paragraph about how your life would be affected.

